

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favourable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has taken the position that claims 6, 26, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph. Accordingly, claims 6, 26, and 31 have been amended. Specifically claim 6 has been amended to state that the axial direction is the direction at issue in this claim. Claim 26 has been amended to more clearly set out the alternatives claimed. Claim 29 has been amended to state that the mechanical connectors are made of a stiff material. Claims 30 and 31 were also amended so that they are consistent with amended claim 29. It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended now meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Further, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations in claim 24 and 28.

The non-elected claims 37 to 52 drawn to a method of manufacturing a stretched rolled electroactive polymer actuator are being cancelled from the application. It is respectfully submitted that the Applicant retains the right to present these claims 37 to 52 in a divisional application

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 11, 13 – 16, 18, 21 – 23, 25 – 27, 29 – 33, 35 and 36 as being anticipated by Pelrine ('384). In addition the Examiner has rejected claims 12, 17, 20, 33 and 34 as being unpatentable over Pelrine ('384). The Examiner is requested to reconsider the rejection in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

The Pelrine is directed to electroactive polymer transducers. However, there is nothing

in Pelrine that discloses a general purpose layer having at least one of oriented insulating fibers in a circumferential direction suspended in a soft matrix and a flexible printed circuit board. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Pelrine cannot be said to anticipate or render the invention as claimed in claim 1 un inventive and therefore claim 1 is patentable over Pelrine and the other prior art references. Further, it is submitted that all claims dependent on claim 1 are similarly patentable over the prior art.

Applicant submits that the amendments to the application are to more clearly and succinctly recite and claim the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by these amendments and all the amendments are supported by the original specification as a whole.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, which is requested.

Dated: 11/02/2005

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.: 14422 (115-014-P)